

CLAIMS

What is claimed and desired to be covered by Letters Patent is:

1. A picture hanger comprising:

- a) a U-shaped support element which is attached to a support structure, such as a wall, in use, said U-shaped support element having
 - (1) a first leg having a first end, a second end, and a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of the first leg and the second end of the first leg,
 - (2) a second leg having a first end, a second end, and a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of the second leg and the second end of the second leg, the longitudinal axis of the second leg being parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first leg,
 - (3) a bight section having a first end connected to the first end of the first leg, a second end connected to the first end of the second leg, and a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of the bight section and the second end of the bight section, the longitudinal

- axis of the bight section extending transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first leg and the longitudinal axis of the second leg,
- (4) a first adjusting element support on the second end of the first leg, and
 - (5) a second adjusting element support on the second end of the second leg;
- b) an adjusting element movably mounted in the first and second adjusting element supports, said adjusting element having
- (1) a first end adjacent to the first adjusting element support,
 - (2) a second end adjacent to the second adjusting element support,
 - (3) a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of the adjusting element and the second end of the adjusting element and extending parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bight section in use,
 - (4) an exterior surface,
 - (5) a screw thread on the exterior surface of said adjusting element,
 - (6) a first screw-driver accommodating head on the first end of the adjusting element, and

- (7) a second screw-driver accommodating head on the second end of the adjusting element;
- c) said adjusting element being movably mounted on said U-shaped support element to rotate about the longitudinal axis of said adjusting element under influence of a screw driver accommodated in either the first screw-driver accommodating head or the second screw-driver accommodating head;
- d) a support plate which is fixedly attached to a picture when in use and which includes a planar body having a first planar surface, a second planar surface, a first side edge, a second side edge, a first end edge, a second end edge, a longitudinal axis extending between the first end edge of said support plate and the second end edge of said support plate and which extends in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the first leg of said U-shaped support element, a transverse axis extending between the first side edge of said support plate and the second side edge of said support plate and which extends in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the bight leg of said U-shaped support element in use, two mounting fastener accommodating holes defined through said support plate from the

first planar surface to the second planar surface, the mounting fastener accommodating holes being spaced apart from each other in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the planar body of said support plate;

- e) the longitudinal axis of the planar body of said support plate extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the first leg of said U-shaped support element in use;
- f) a post having a first end fixedly connected to the first end edge of the planar body of said support plate, a second end, a longitudinal axis extending between the first end of the post and the second end of the post, the longitudinal axis of said post extending in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the planar body of said support plate; and
- g) a connection unit which connects said post to said adjusting element in a manner in which rotational movement of said adjusting element causes linear movement of said post in the direction of the longitudinal axis of said post so said support plate is moved toward and away from the bight leg of said U-shaped support element when said adjusting element is rotated about the longitudinal

axis of said adjusting element.

2. The picture hanger as described in claim 1 further including a picture frame on which said support plate is fixedly attached, and a second support plate fixedly attached to said picture frame.
3. The picture hanger as described in claim 1 wherein said connection unit includes a screw thread.